

Durham Soil & Water



Conservation District



FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

721 Foster Street; Durham, NC 27701

Phone: 919-560-0558 Fax: 560-0563

Date: June 28, 2010

Dear Durham County Farm Owners,

I am a new employee with the Durham Soil and Water Conservation Department. As of June 1, I began working on the following items for the department: implementing the goals of the Durham County Farmland Plan; administering the Community Conservation Assistance Program, and handling watershed issues as they relate to agriculture.

One of my first task is to update the list of Agricultural landowners/operators in the county. On the back of this letter is a survey for you to complete. With the information from this survey we will be able to develop a list of folks who are in transition; who may need technical assistance or, may have an interest in diversifying farming operations. If you have not read the Durham County Farmland Plan you can review it on our website www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd

We would like the survey to be completed by the farm owner or operator. All information provided in this survey will help the Durham Soil and Water Conservation staff to better serve you and the agricultural community.

Please return the survey by **July 22, 2010**. Mail it to:

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

721 Foster Street

Durham, NC 27701

Fax: 919-560-0563 / email: mdupree@co.durham.nc.us

complete the survey online at

http://www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/Farmland_Protection_Board.html

Thank you for your time and the information that you provide will be used to enhance agriculture in Durham County. You are very important to us and the Durham Soil and Water Conservation Department will be available to help you should you have any questions and/or comments. Please do not hesitate to call; we are here to serve you.

Respectfully,

Mike Dupree

Mike Dupree

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Purpose: The purpose of this survey is to develop a list of the people farming in the county and what type of farming practices they are implementing. This list will be used to implement the Durham County Farmland Plan and provide technical assistance to farmers. Our goal is to help keep farming alive and viable in Durham County while preserving our natural resources.

Name		Phone	
Address		Email	
		Township	

1. How many acres do you own? _____ acres parcel# _____
2. How many acres do you rent? _____ acres parcel# _____
3. How many acres are you farming? _____ acres
4. Do you want to lease more land to farm? ☐yes ☐no _____ acres
5. What commodities are you producing?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
6. How long have you been farming? _____ years
7. How long do you plan to continue farming? _____ years
8. Have you trained someone to take over your operation? ☐yes ☐no
9. Are you farming as a (check one) ☐Sole proprietor ☐Partnership ☐LLC ☐Corporation
10. Do you presently have land that you would like to lease? How many acres/_____
11. Would you be interested in training /mentoring a new farmer? ☐yes ☐no
12. What is the intended future for your farming operation?
 ☐Family member will continue the operation
☐Lease farm to new farmer to continue operation
☐non-agricultural use ☐no future plans
☐Health ☐Family Members ☐Retirement
☐Profit ☐Development Pressures
☐Regulations ☐Other
13. What do you believe to be the most important factor influencing your decision to continue your current farming operation?
14. Is your land taxed at its agricultural use value? ☐yes ☐no
15. How can the Durham Soil and Water Conservation Department best represent you and your farming operation in regional planning? _____

16. Would you like to discuss your future operational plans with Durham Soil and Water Conservation staff members? ☐yes ☐no
17. Do you have a web site for your farm ☐yes ☐no Website: _____
18. Would you like to be included on a county farmer's directory website? ☐yes ☐no
19. Has the farm been in your family for over 100 years? ☐yes ☐no

Completed surveys can be emailed to mdupree@co.durham.nc.us by July 22, 2010

The soil is the source of life, creativity, culture, and real independence